Governor Philip F. La Follette, the Wisconsin Progressives, and the New Deal. By John E. Miller.
(Columbia and London, University of Missouri Press, 1982. 229 p. $21.00.)

THIS FINE BOOK focuses on the years of Philip La Follette's career as a political leader and reformer, a time span extending from 1930 to 1939. Philip, the elder Robert M. La Follette's "second son," won his first election to the governorship in 1930 running as a Republican. In 1932 he failed to win renomination in the Republican primary, a defeat terminating his affiliation with the Grand Old Party. Two years later Philip and his brother, Senator Robert M. La Follette, Jr., assumed leadership of a new Wisconsin Progressive party, a role accepted by Robert with considerable reluctance and by Philip with more enthusiasm.

The new party got off to a promising start in 1934, electing Philip to the governorship and re-electing Robert to the Senate. Two years later Philip won another term in the governor's chair: the Progressives gained full control of the state legislature, captured most of Wisconsin's congressional seats, and elected their entire state ticket.

Progressive ascendency in Wisconsin turned out to be brief, however: in 1938 the new party suffered humiliating defeat. An effort Philip launched in April to expand the state organization into a national third party (The National Progressives of America) evoked more negative than positive responses from liberals and reformers, and in the fall he lost his bid for re-election. So did most other Progressive party candidates. Subsequent elections confirmed that the rout of 1938 was not a temporary setback, but a harbinger of permanent decline.

Several factors contributed to this dramatic downturn in Progressive fortunes. For one thing, the political climate was more conservative than it had been earlier. For another, the Wisconsin third party was severely factionalized, with moderates pitted against radicals, farmers against wage earners and, increasingly, supporters of an "anti-Fascist" foreign policy against hard-core "isolationists." Furthermore, the working relationship between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the La Folllettes, while not completely shattered (Robert supported FDR's re-election in 1940), was severely impaired.

Miller's analysis of the deterioration of the La Follette-Roosevelt alliance is of particular interest. Of and by itself, the cooling of this relationship was not surprising; many of the old Republican progressives became harsh critics of the New Deal. The La Follettes, however, appeared to be transitional figures whose stance on public policy issues seemed to bridge the gap separating old progressive values from New Deal liberalism. Significantly, too, both Philip and Robert enthusiastically sup-
port ed FDR's 1937 court-packing plan, a controversial proposal that alienated most of the Republican progressives who had not already broken with the New Deal. Hence, Philip's decision, announced in early 1938, to initiate the organization of a national third party came as something of a surprise.

It also came as a shock. One disquieting factor was the prospect that NPA would siphon off support that otherwise would go to FDR (should he choose to run again) and thereby contribute to Republican success in 1940. The symbolism and pageantry accompanying announcement of the new party was even more disturbing. The organizational rally held in Madison on April 28, 1938, may explain why. As Miller described it: "Before the meeting began, a color guard and a drum-and-bugle corps circled the hall several times. A military band blared away with patriotic songs. University athletes garbed in bright-red letter sweaters ushered people to their seats, while national guardsmen helped direct traffic outside. Every corner of the pavilion was festooned with American flags, and behind the podium hung a huge blue banner which was decorated with the cross-in-circle symbol."

It is not surprising that many left-of-center reformers perceived a startling parallel between the NPA event and the Nazi-Fascist rallies of the 1930s; some of them characterized the cross-in-circle symbol as a "circumcised swastika." In addition, La Follette's rhetoric appeared to indicate that he was moving away from championship of the oppressed to a politics of consensus based on emotional patriotism. He also seemed to assign higher priority to the encouragement of "productivity" than to the promotion of equality, a standpoint that may have anticipated John F. Kennedy liberalism, but one calculated to please conservative critics of the New Deal in the 1930s.

Although Miller does not dismiss these reactions as sheer fantasies, he insists that La Follette was neither a potential Fascist nor a born-again conservative. La Follette, Miller argues, had consistently respected the motivating power of emotion-stirring symbols, and now he wanted to place this power at the service of goals very different from those being pursued by Nazism. The stress on productivity, according to Miller, was not a recently discovered value, but one that had been gestating in La Follette's thought processes for some time. The same was true with respect to his emphasis on national unity. Notwithstanding his frequent campaign assaults on the "vested interests" and "privileged classes," Philip La Follette had at times demonstrated a preference for consensus over confrontation. When the question of a name for the new third party was being debated in 1934, he argued against the Farmer-Labor label, a name carrying implications of a permanent class struggle.

The 1938 defeat effectively terminated Philip La Follette's career as an elected politician. In 1940-41 he actively partici-
pated in the crusade against American involvement in World War II spearheaded by the America First Committee, although he avoided formal affiliation with that organization. After Pearl Harbor he entered military service, winding up on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur, an appointment "that transformed his life." Like many who served under MacArthur, La Follette developed a fierce loyalty to his chief; the more he venerated the general, the more obsessive his hatred for Roosevelt and the New Deal became.

The relationship between the two La Follette brothers also cooled. Robert and Franklin Roosevelt were on less intimate terms than earlier, but the senator continued to cooperate with the president on occasion, although he remained critical of administration foreign policy. However, Robert spurned suggestions that he affiliate with the Democratic party. At the expiration of his term in 1946, he filed in the GOP primary but suffered defeat at the hands of Joseph B. McCarthy, who shortly would achieve fame as the nation's chief Red hunter.

By the close of World War II, Philip undeniably had become a "right-winger," alienated from his old friends and supporters, while close personal rapport with leaders of the right eluded him. In the last two decades of his life — he died in 1965 — he remained a lonely outsider plagued with a drinking problem. Meanwhile the bulk of his old following moved into a revitalized Wisconsin Democratic party, which by 1965 could with some justification claim the La Follette legacy.

This is an excellent book, eminently readable, thoroughly researched and well-balanced from an interpretive standpoint. It should appeal not only to specialists in New Deal historiography, but also to general readers with an interest in the political history of the Upper Midwest.


REFERENCE GUIDES are easy targets. Works of such idiosyncratic form and purpose lumber into a reviewer's sights, ready to be downed by a barrage of commonplace criticisms. A Supplement to Reference Guide to Minnesota History, 1970-80 seems precisely that sort of massive bibliographical bull's-eye. However, reviewers should beware: this book deserves no cheap shots.

The Supplement collects and organizes over 1,600 titles concerning Minnesota history that have appeared in print after 1970. The first Reference Guide, compiled by Michael Brook, was published in 1974, and the present continuation, handled mostly by Sarah P. Rubinstein, extends a laudable project. The listings report materials published between 1970 and 1980, fully indexed, occasionally annotated, and logically catego-

ized, the Supplement exemplifies the compiler's and bibliographer's arts.

Even so, it is open to critical sniping. Its categories, for example, could be declared arbitrary, its listings probably omit some eligible publications, its annotations may not please the ardent bibliophile, antiquarian, or "buff." (The list of possible complaints could go on and on.)

Such fish-in-a-barrel shooting, however, completely misses the point. Reference guides intend to provide access. The listings must be as comprehensive as possible, sorted into coherent subcategories, and judiciously annotated. The work must be accurately, completely, and logically indexed by author, title, subject, and probably by geographical reference. And finally, the entire manuscript, one comprised of thousands of names and voluminous indexes, must be proofread several times to ensure accurate presentation.

If this is not labor-intensive activity prone to errors, oversights, and misjudgments, nothing is. To have the process end with a work of the quality and content of this Supplement is truly praiseworthy. Historians, researchers, and anyone who seeks access to Minnesota history will use this book easily and successfully. It is, to employ an often misused phrase, a contribution to scholarship.

Only one query should be registered: after this and subsequent Supplements extend the reference shelf, will they all be combined into a single volume, with a unified index? One hopes so. That work could only be excellent because its predecessors will have set such a high standard.

Reviewed by LAVER BENELE, historian for the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and editor of that society's quarterly, North Dakota History.


(College Station, Texas A&M University Press, 1982. 268 p. $22.50.)

LUMBERJACKS and Legislators is a book about neither. It is a study in the political economy of lumbering as seen through the eyes of foresters, businessmen, and public administrators. Despite its title, the volume is a solidly researched, well-written, and dispassionate account of the lumber industry and its attempts to stabilize the devastating effects of competition. It is a behind-the-scenes story, the more fascinating because of its real characters — such as David T. Mason and William B. Glecley — and not the stock-in-trade lumber barons and conservation crusaders.

The fundamental problem Robbins deals with is well described in his first chapter, "The Great Barbeque and American Forestry," where he discusses the 19th-century lumber economy with its cutthroat competition, overproduction, depressed prices, wasted resources, and the elimination of smaller and marginal operators. He notes the "cut-out and get-out" operations of some loggers but takes time to examine the reasons and relate them to the larger economy. Cutting and
getting out did not arise from shortsighted gains but from competitive pressures that forced liquidation of standing timber in order to cut the costs of taxes, mills, and capitalization. By the turn of the century, however, the more progressive lumbermen recognized that industrial co-operation was essential to protecting the industry from the ravages of competition. These lumbermen made "a commitment to order in place of competition."

The lumber economy is a complicated one, and each of Robbins' 11 chapters examines special problems that affected lumbering. Forest taxation, for example, was a great expense for lumber operators; tax rates often forced them to cut their timber regardless of the market just to escape the costs. Industry executives and professional foresters such as Gifford Pinchot agreed that forest taxation was directly related to the issue of conservation. On this and other issues, the fledging United States Forest Service and industry became firm allies. By 1920, Robbins concludes, the forest conservation movement had been wrested from the leadership of "nature lovers" and placed squarely in the hands of trained foresters and businessmen.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the lumber industry attempted to find stability through trade associations and, through these, to participate in the legislative and regulatory processes of government. It was necessary for the industry to strike a balance between securing federal support for and cooperation with private forestry without incurring government regulation of private logging. The 1924 Clarke-McNary Act, the crowning achievement of this movement, provided for cooperative forestry programs among federal and state governments and with private landowners, forestry protection, and expanded national forest purchases. It did not, however, include regulatory measures. As Robbins points out, the act "signaled industrial hegemony over the legislative and regulatory process." The New Deal attempted to institutionalize the volunteer and trade associations in the NRA codes. These failed, eventually, because the competitive forces within the industry proved much stronger than voluntary adherence to or enforcement of the codes.

Robbins' research draws liberally upon the papers of leading industrial, academic, and government foresters, and through judicious quotations the reader becomes acquainted with David Mason, Wilson Compton, William Grecley, and Raphael Zon. Given the context of an unstable industry undergoing the upheaval of a world war, a boom, and depression, the men who emerge from these pages appear as individuals of depth, sophistication, and vision. Their industry failed to attain stability, but the blame cannot be laid at the feet of these men. The difficulties stemmed from an intractable contradiction within the political economy: the smaller lumbermen adhered to the principle of competition as the engine of growth and profits while the larger operators pursued co-operation as the means of protecting their share of the market. Neither was fully able to dominate the other, nor could they long agree upon a common course.

The sophistication of this study owes an acknowledged intellectual debt to the work of William Appleman Williams. It is a refreshing and substantial study because it examines the social and political context of the industry, the structures and values of institutions, rather than the personal motives of particular individuals. Lumberjacks and Legislators is not light reading, but it is important reading for anyone attempting to "pierce the mantle of nostalgia" that is often wrapped around the past.

Reviewed by R. Newell Seagle, the author of Saving Queti-co-Superior. A Land Set Apart (1977) and numerous articles on forestry and resource issues. He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Forest History and is employed by Cargill, Inc.


(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1983. 71 p. $2.00. 38 rolls, including Guide, $855.00. Individual rolls, $25.00.)

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of railroads to the development of the trans-Mississippi West. The use of the records of railway companies to understand and explain their role, however, has been limited.

Railroads were the first modern industrial corporations and consequently have from their beginnings generated an enormous volume of records. With few exceptions, until recently railroads have retained their own records. Many companies did, and still do, try to answer specific requests for historical information. They have provided copies of photographs, locomotive drawings, depot plans, and timetables. Scholars writing a history of the railroad or perhaps a biography of an important official might use the records. Railroads are not, however, primarily devoted to providing reference service on their records or to encouraging wide public use of them. Further, the bulk of the material tends to inhibit research.

In the late 1960s the Minnesota Historical Society began acquiring Northern Pacific Railway Company records of historical value, now totaling over 10,000 linear feet. The society is among a very few institutions in the country with the talent and resources to manage successfully collections of records the size of NP and its sister railroad, the Great Northern. Pursuing an institutional commitment to make historical resources widely available, the division of archives and manuscripts at MHS has undertaken to promote and facilitate the use of these records in several ways, including microfilming selected portions. The 38 rolls in the microfilm edition of the Northern Pacific Land Department Records, 1870-1876 is the largest to date in a series of such projects.

The Northern Pacific was chartered in 1864 to build a transcontinental railroad along a northern route from Lake Superior to Puget Sound. In order to finance the construction and early operation, the company was granted sections of public land along its route totaling between 47 and 60 million acres. It was the task of the Land Department to locate these parcels of land and to encourage and supervise their sale. The company distributed promotional material in the East and in Europe, set up a network of representatives in several western European countries, conducted tours of potential sites for agents of colonization companies, and established immigrant houses to ease the way for newcomers.

Summer 1983 265
The microfilm contains correspondence, minutes of the Land Committee, and printed material. The latter includes informational and promotional pamphlets and circulars issued by the Northern Pacific, colonization societies, land companies, and the state of Minnesota; Congressional acts and reports; and United States General Land Office circulars and forms. The records begin in 1870 when arrangements were made with the banking house of Jay Cooke & Co. to finance the enterprise. They end in 1876 after the collapse of Cooke & Co. led to the bankruptcy and reorganization of the railroad.

This set of film ought to be acquired by the major libraries and historical societies in the states traversed by the Northern Pacific, as well as by institutions throughout the country whose collections focus on business and economic history, immigration and ethnicity, or Western history.

Those with more modest budgets and research needs should not be daunted by the size and cost of this microfilm edition, however. Accompanying the film is a printed guide that gives a brief historical note and chronology of the railroad for these years, notes giving major subjects covered by the records in each roll, and a short select list of authors indicating the rolls on which their correspondence appears. In addition, Roll 38 contains extensive notes on the contents made by the editor as he prepared the records for filming. Judicious use of the printed guide along with this roll should enable those interested in the development of a community, for example, or in a particular ethnic group to identify individual rolls for use or purchase.

In its technical aspects, this film shows the high standards which we have come to expect from MHS. Take notice of this microfilm publication; its research value is great.

Reviewed by Anne P. Diffendal, manuscripts curator of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

City of Lakes: An Illustrated History of Minneapolis.
By Joseph Stipanovich.
(Woodland Hills, Calif., Windsor Publications, 1982. 385 p., $27.95.)

ANYONE with a love for Minneapolis should buy this book immediately. Those who are not particularly attached to the city might be advised to borrow one from a friend's coffee table and relish the excellent reproductions of early paintings, lithographs, and photographs depicting scenes in the city.

Although the book promises to provide us with a "fresh look at Minneapolis' remarkable history," it presents the usual view of the past. Chapter one is a race through three centuries of local events presented in chronological order. This conveys the generally accepted view of the city's past, replete with discussions of the braggart priest, Father Hennepin, the 1892 national convention of the Republican party, Prohibition, the depression, Hubert Humphrey, and urban renewal. The section concludes, "Minneapolis, through the accidents of history as well as the energies of its citizens, has been, truly, a fortunate city."

Stipanovich then moves on to describe the growth of saw-milling and flour milling along the river, providing a concise overview of these industries and the personalities that controlled them. He recounts the demise of milling and the emergence of new, more diversified manufacturers, and retells the tale of Franklin Steele, the Washburns, the Pillsburys, the Crosbys, William H. Dunwoodry, and William de la Barre. In his discussion of the transportation issue that pitted the grain merchants who established the Chamber of Commerce against the millers who eventually constructed the "Soo Line." Stipanovich does not make clear what problem the new railroad solved. He simply states that it freed the millers from the control of the Chicago railroads, but to understand the significance of the Soo Line the reader needs additional information and an interpretation of the national economy during the last quarter of the 19th century. By the same token, the author's brief account of competition between local grain millers and the agents buying grain for east coast millers should be set in a broader context. Finally, Stipanovich should have explained the marketing efforts of James S. Bell and Dunwoodry because neither cities nor their basic industries are simply "accidents of history."

While Stipanovich presents all the significant factual information on the development of the city's early basic industries, he does not complement it with material on the economic history of the nation. Nor does he employ any concepts to organize his work. Thus his book continues the myth that Minneapolis is unique. While it is the only city at this geographical location, it shares development patterns with many others. Cities are centers of human population where materials, people, and ideas are assembled, processed, and redistributed. The size, growth, and wealth of a city depend upon the size and resources of its hinterland and its connections to other cities.

The establishment of a continental railroad system, for example, allowed Minneapolis millers not only to aggregate hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain at their mills, but also to ship processed flour to urban markets in the northeastern United States and eventually overseas. The Falls of St. Anthony may have been the special landscape element that prompted Minneapolis to form, but it was the subsequent water-power industry and railroad system that enabled the local economy to grow and the city to expand. The lack of a map detailing the city's railroad and water connections is a serious omission.

The success of the city's entrepreneurs depended upon capital invested by people in other parts of the world. Minnesotans' public relations efforts, like the development of the aggressive advertising program of the flour millers, were significant elements in the image-building process that eventually drew investments and settlers to the city. Yet unless historians make that point clear, the efforts of the city's early boosters appear silly, self-congratulatory, and without consequence.

Stipanovich handles the emergence of the city's electronics industry very well with an interesting case study of the Onan Corporation, in 1922 a manufacturer of electrical devices used in automobile maintenance. By World War II, the company made half the power plants used by the military and continued to make them after the war. Stipanovich quite correctly stresses the importance of human resourcefulness in this era of a
The chapter on city politics is equally good. Here Stipanovich clearly places local politics in a broader construct and avoids a tedious recitation of city elections and neighborhood squabbles. He treats the Donnelly-Washburn competition in a clear, lively fashion. His treatment of the Populist movement is particularly good because it gives information about what the city's residents were thinking and discussing during these years.

Early 20th-century politics is also examined in some detail. This is good scandal-filled reading and provides a balance to the previous chapter's image of a city full of bright entrepreneurs doing well while doing good. The strikes of 1902 and 1903, the extralegal activities of the Commission of Public Safety, the impact of the Nonpartisan League, and the politics of the depression are all considered here. Stipanovich's description of the teamster strike of 1934, the city's effort to squelch it, and the eventual indirect intervention of President Roosevelt is presented not as a statement of class warfare as previous writers have described it, but rather as a step in the emergence of the Minneapolis community.

The last chapter spotlights immigration. Stipanovich stresses that the largest group of immigrants — Scandinavians — looked and generally thought like the pioneers; their assimilation was fast and nearly complete. Newer arrivals probably have more difficulty assuming positions of wealth and power. It is refreshing to read Stipanovich's optimistic conclusion to this chapter: "Fragile as it sometimes has proven to be, the sense of community in Minneapolis is remarkable in light of the diversity in the origins of its inhabitants and the adversities that it has encountered. In meeting these trials as often as not, it should be stressed, it has come away a winner."

But the task of community building is never over. As new immigrants from Asia and Latin America diversify Minneapolis' population, the power structure will have to be steadfast in its commitment to the concept of community. In this task the importance of the school district cannot be overemphasized, so Stipanovich's silence on the schools' impact on acculturation and community building is somewhat mystifying.

The final section of the book, written by Dick Schaaf, consists of a series of corporate biographies. These are the modern equivalents of Atwater's biographies of the founding fathers and are great fun. There is no effort to illustrate the connections among the corporations and, of course, no mention of the failures. Nonetheless, they are very useful, and photographs of the garage in which Honeywell operations began is well worth the price of the book.

Special mention must be made of the illustrations in this book. Clearly a great deal of effort was spent in selecting illustrative material. I especially appreciate the fine color reproductions of several 19th-century paintings. Paging through the book is a delight. In many ways it is like a family photograph album — a mixture of good and average pictures with enough excellent shots to keep the viewer excited. Unfortunately, some are reduced to a size to make them illegible. Perhaps years studying the development of the physical form of the Twin Cities has given me a stronger bias than I am willing to recognize, but I do not understand why there are only two small maps in the entire book or why an excellent reproduction of a landscape image of the area warranted no caption.

Stipanovich has risen to the challenge of writing a much-needed historical survey of the city. His book is clearly written, covers the salient points in the history of the city, and presents us with some new information. The production of the book is outstanding. The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce is to be congratulated for the support of this project on our favorite place, the Twin Cities.

Reviewed by David A. Lanezrnan, professor of geography at Macalester College and author of several books and articles on the development of the Twin Cities, including Where We Live: The Residential Districts of Minneapolis and St. Paul (1983). He also served as a member of a consultant team charged with recommending buildings and places in Minneapolis for nomination to the National Register.

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**NEWS & NOTES**

EASTERN capitalists and their effect on the development of the West is the subject of John Denis Haeger's *The Investment Frontier: New York Businessmen and the Economic Development of the Old Northwest* (Albany, State University of New York Press, 1981, 311 p., library binding, $39.00, paper, $12.95). By studying in depth two New York financiers, Haeger is able to show that speculation could take many different forms, ranging from the western promoter to the conservative investor. In both cases he found that diversified investments led the capitalists to assume an organic view of the nation's economy. The book does an interesting job of discrediting some old stereotypes of capitalists and frontierspeople.

IN *Superior, a State for the North County* (Marquette, Mich., Pilot Press, 1980, 64 p., $4.95), author James L. Carter traces the attempts, spanning 130 years, to carve a state out of the northern reaches of present-day Michigan and Wisconsin. Maps, historical and contemporary photographs, and reproductions of cartoons, newspapers, and rally posters enliven this brief, interesting tale.

IN well-written, straightforward prose, John Dominik examines one Minnesota industry in *Cold Spring Granite: A History* (Cold Spring, 1982, 107 p., $12.50). He traces the industry from its Minnesota beginnings in 1863 through
the vicissitudes of state and national economy to the Cold Spring company’s emergence as the largest granite concern in the world. Woven throughout the book are the stories of people — particularly the Alexander family, whose Scottish-born patriarch founded the firm and whose grandsons still head it. One particularly interesting chapter tells how the company met the challenge of World War II by switching to shipbuilding. It was remarkable.

Dominick notes, for “a company so far removed from the sea in location and so alien to its domain [to have] so successfully made the transition.” This handsomely produced publication also has eight stunning color photographs of various granites.

PRAIRIE School Architecture in Minnesota Iowa Wisconsin (St. Paul, Minnesota Museum of Art, 1982, 103 p.) was published to accompany last year’s major exhibition of the same title at St. Paul’s Landmark Center. Rather than being a comprehensive catalog or exhaustive history, the publication is a collection of six essays which examine the basic principles and forms of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and the impact their example had on architects working in the Upper Midwest. The authors include an architect, a designer, and several historians with varying areas of interest, as a result, the book not only describes and illustrates the basic elements of the style in clear and concise terms, but also examines the historical and built environment into which this radical style was introduced. Most important, the versatility of the Prairie School style and the many ways in which it became a part of the rich architectural fabric of midwestern towns and cities can be seen in the creative interpretations of followers who had worked with Wright or Sullivan, as well as those who had only seen the architects’ work illustrated in books and magazines.

While the book does not contribute new or critical scholarship, it provides an excellent introduction and visual guide to the development of the Prairie School style in these three northern states. Following the essays is a helpful appendix which lists a sampling of Prairie School building throughout the region. Handsomely produced, the book should prove of interest to architectural students and explorers as well as local and regional historians. It is hoped that the museum will reissue Prairie School Architecture, currently out of print. Trudy V Hansen

A HANDSOME addition to the literature on logging and lumbering is Tom Bacig’s and Fred Thompson’s Tall Timber (Bloomington, Minn., Voyager Press, 1982, 122 p., $18.95).

Handsomely printed photographs from the collections of several regional and state historical societies, logging companies, and museums tell the story of cities and towns, logging camps, working in the woods, transporting the logs, and, finally, of sawmills and marketable lumber. The text, which precedes each photographic section, takes the reader from “The Dominion of the Trees; Geological Time” to “The Fasing of the Pines. The Lessons of Lumbering.” A brief bibliography and glossary of terms is appended to this thoroughly enjoyable volume.

NINA Morais Cohen, Amelia Ullman, and Fannie Fligelman Brin are among the women lauded in Jacob B. Marcus The American Jewish Woman, 1654–1980 (New York, KTAV Publishing House, Inc., 1981, 231 p., $55.00). Aside from his annoying habit of referring to Jewish women as Jewesses, the author does a long-overdue job of pointing out the very large and very real contributions of Jewish women to American as well as Jewish literature, social welfare and philanthropy, science, and political activity. A truly wonderful bibliographic essay leads readers to reference works as well as gaps in scholarship. As the author himself would agree, this book is a solid beginning, but much research remains to be done.

EXTENSIVE research in archives and libraries lifts Edna Hong’s The Way of the Sacred Tree (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1983, 204 p., $8.95) out of the category of mere historical novel. Peopled with characters like Gideon Pond, Harriet Bishop, Little Crow, and all the familiar personnel of the Dakota War, it sympathetically portrays the members of an Indian family — particularly one young man — their relations with other Dakota, Ojibwa, and white people, and the ways in which they chose to meet the threats of white encroachment. Hong approached cautiously her desire to write this book, fearful of affronting those “whose history I could only research and never directly share.” The result is a well-written and very readable volume that will educate as it entertains — without affronting anyone.

PURSUING images of the Indian created by white peoples’ imaginations, author Raymond William Stedman ranges through American popular media over an impressive time span in Shadows of the Indian: Stereotypes in American Culture (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1982, 251 p., $24.95). Rather than plumb the depths of one particular stereotype or one particular medium such as the movies, Stedman wisely chose to isolate a number of images to explore and analyze in all of their ugly manifestations. It is a list to make the reader winces, both in recognition and horror: from noble savage to relentless, bloodthirsty killer; ignorant brute to lustful lover; monosyllabic sidekick to purveyor of mystical curing potions or cigars. And flagrant misrepresentations continue up to the present day, most notably between the covers of supermarket romance novels. As stated in the book’s preface, too often books like this one are dismissed as interesting but unimportant. This important book is not only well researched and well written, but it is also well documented with reproductions of historic paintings, engravings, and other drawings as well as the ephemera of modern popular culture.

THE Center for Great Plains Studies, which will host the eighth annual interdisciplinary symposium on March 15 and 16, 1984, at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, has issued a call for papers. The conference will focus on the ways in which European artistic traditions have influenced the development and practice of the visual arts (including the graphic arts, architecture, photography, and crafts) in the American Middle West since 1800. Proposals (150 to 200 words) for papers and curriculum vitae should be sent by October 15, 1983, to Jon Nelson, 205 Love Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0475.

A CALL for papers has been issued by the Agricultural History Society, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for a jointly sponsored symposium on the history of soil and water conservation. The conference will be held May 24–26, 1984, at Columbia, Missouri. Send proposals and outlines to Douglas Helms, Historian, Soil Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013. The deadline is September 10, 1983.